I HAD ALL MY UNITS TRY TO TRACK HIM DOWN, BUT WE HAVE FOUND NOTHING...IT IS UNFORTUNATE.

EVER SINCE THE MURDER OF PRINCE KURT, BYRON HAS NOT BEEN SEEN.

CORRECT...I'M AFRAID THAT IS THE ONLY CONCLUSION I CAN COME TO.

IN ORDER TO GET CLOSE TO THE PRINCE, HE GAINED HIS TRUST...

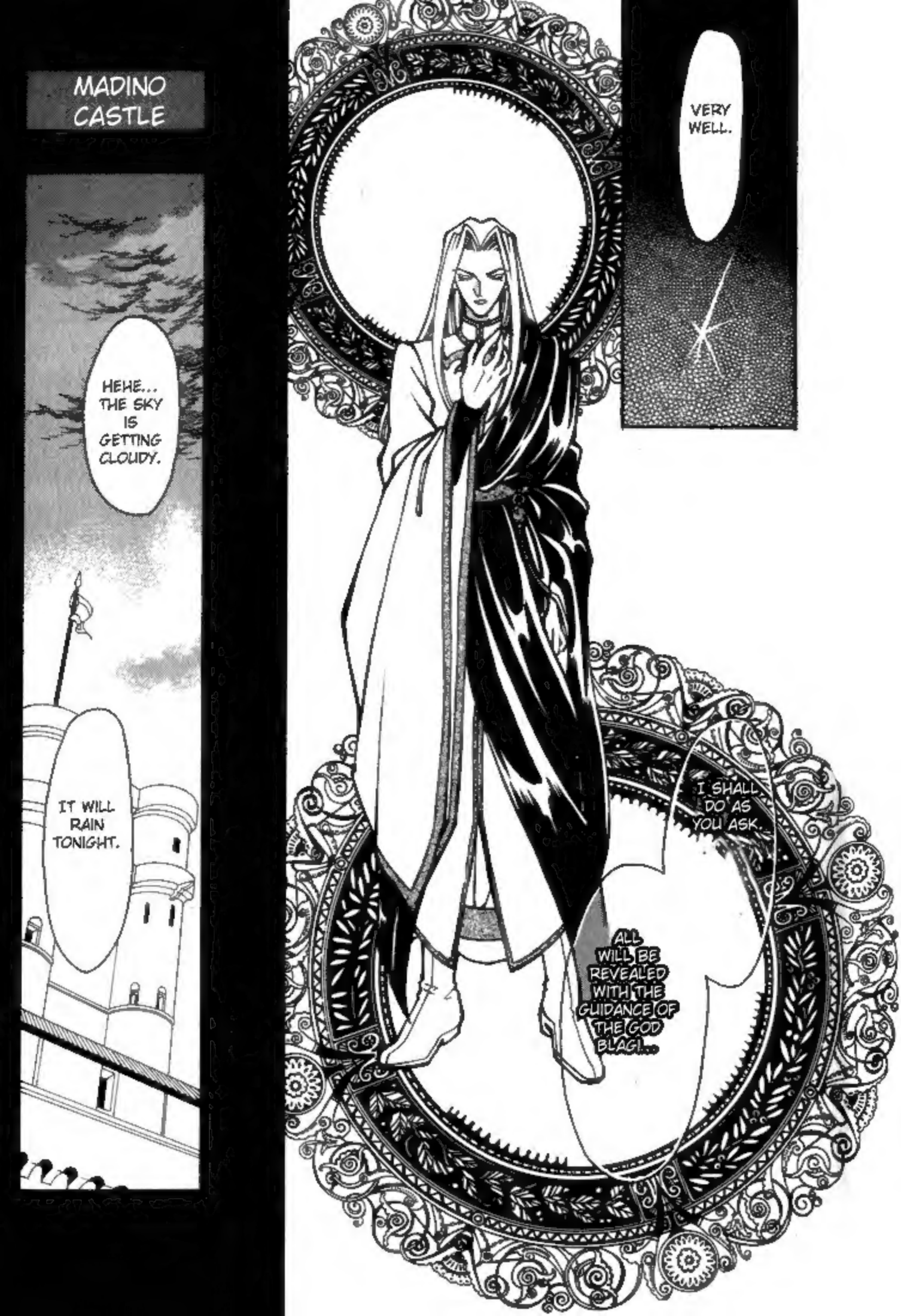
IT IS CLEAR THAT HE INTENDS TO OVERTHROW THE GRANDBELL KINGDOM.

KINGDOM OF GRANDBELL, THE RULER, AZMUL

...SO, LAN-GOBALT.

YOU ARE SAYING THAT BYRON MURDERED KURT...!?

OH, ALVIS!!
I WAS THINKING THE SAME THING.
BUT WITHOUT SUBSTANTIAL EVIDENCE WE CAN'T JUMP TO CONCLUSIONS AND LABEL DUKE BYRON AS A CRIMINAL...
SPEAKING OF WHICH, ABOUT HIS SON...
I HEARD THAT THE PRINCE OF LENSTER IS CURRENTLY IN HIS ARMY...
AND THERE ARE RUMORS THAT HE IS HIDING THE PRINCE OF ISAAC.
DUKE CLAUD.
IT LOOKS LIKE WE WILL HAVE TO RELY ON YOUR ABILITIES.
AS THE HEAD OF THE EDDA RELIGIOUS SECT, WILL YOU HEAD TO THE TOWER OF BLAGI AND FIND OUT THE TRUTH?


MADINO CASTLE
HEHE... THE SKY IS GETTING CLOUDY.
IT WILL RAIN TONIGHT.
VERY WELL.
I SHALL DO AS YOU ASK.
ALL WILL BE REVEALED WITH THE GUIDANCE OF THE GOD BLAG!...

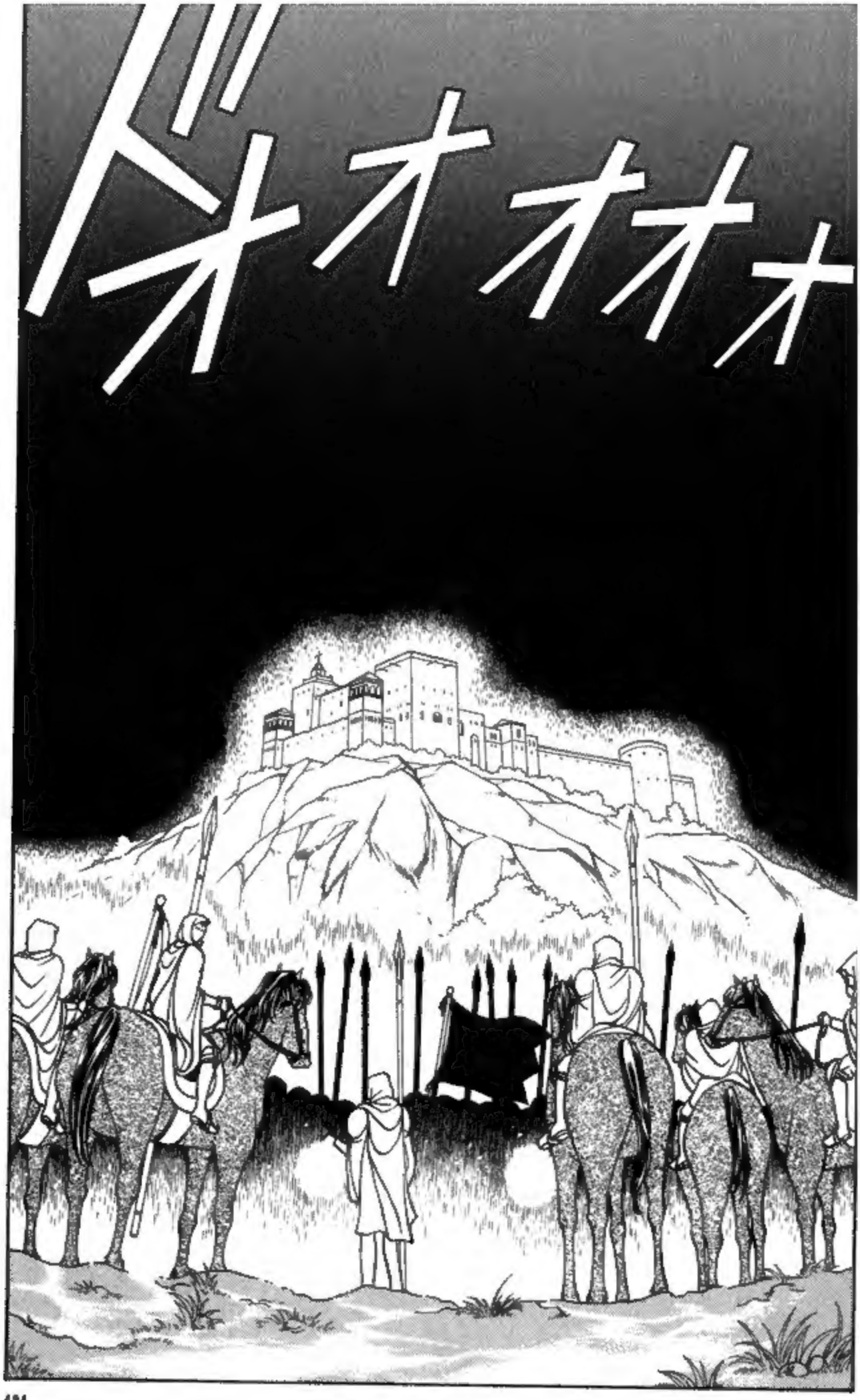
TAKE HEART, KING CHAGALL.
WITH THIS RAIN, THERE WILL BE NO ENEMY WHO CAN STAND BEFORE THE MIGHTY THUNDER SWORD OF JACOBAN.
I'M COUNTING ON YOU, JACOBAN.
I PAID A LARGE AMOUNT OF GOLD FOR YOUR MERCENARIES.
HEH..YOU WON'T BE DISAP-POINTED.
OOHHH...! SO THAT'S THE "THUNDER SWORD"?
THE FLASHES OF LIGHTNING THAT DISPERSE FROM THE BLADE ARE EXQUISITE...!!
THIS SWORD WILL FULLFILL MY WISHES!?
EXCUSE ME, YOUR MAJESTY.
LORD ELTOSHAN IS HERE TO SEE YOU...
WHAT?

.....
THEN, KING CHAGALL, I WILL COME BACK LATER.
OKAY.
AS WE HAVE DISCUSSED, I LEAVE THEM TO YOU.
YOUR MAJESTY, WHO WAS THAT MAN JUST NOW?
IT'S NONE OF YOUR CONCERN.
HE LOOKED LIKE A MERCENARY TO ME...
WHAT BUSINESS DO YOU HAVE HERE, ANYWAY?
LAST YEAR, YOU TAXED THE MADINO VILLAGERS TWICE, DID YOU NOT?

IF GRANDBELL INFRINGES UPON OUR COUNTRY, THEN I WILL GLADLY HONOR MY PRIDE AS A KNIGHT AND LAY DOWN MY LIFE TO FIGHT AGAINST THEM.
DON'T TELL ME YOU USED THAT MONEY TO HIRE MERCE-NARIES...?
...HA!! GRANDBELL HAS NO RESPECT! THEY HAVE OVERSTAYED THEIR WELCOME IN AGUSTRIA.
YOUR MAJE-STY!!
BUT BY ATTACKING FIRST, YOU WILL GIVE GRANDBELL A PRETENSE TO RETALIATE.
WHEN THAT HAPPENS, MANY CIVILIANS WILL LOSE THEIR LIVES AGAIN!!
IN THAT CASE, RATHER THAN WASTE MY TIME WITH VASSALS WHO COOPERATE WITH THE ENEMY, I CAN USE MONEY TO BUY RELIABLE MERCENARIES!!
THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT THEY WILL EVENTUALLY ATTACK US HERE!

YOU KNOW WHAT YOU MUST DO, RIGHT? YOU MUST RETURN THE TAXES TO THE PEOPLE AND SEVER ALL TIES TO THE MERCENARIES IMMEDIATELY.
AND THAT IS WHY YOU MUST NOT CAUSE A DIVIDE IN THE PEOPLE.
FOR NOW, WE MUST TRUST IN LORD SIGURD TO ACT ON OUR BEHALF.
NOBODY FROM GRANDBELL CAN POSSIBLY BE TRUSTED.
TCH...

ONCE AGAIN DUKE REPTOR ACTED AS AN AMANUENSIS. HE CONTINUES TO PERSIST WITH PROTECTING AGUSTY...
AGAIN...NO MENTION ABOUT RETURNING AGUSTY BACK TO AGUSTRIAN RULE...
...WAIT FOR KING CHAGALL TO REVOLT...!?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"TO APPEAR ON THE PLACE THAT WILL STAND OUT THE MOST..."
"AND THE MARK APPEARED ON HER FOREHEAD OF ALL PLACES...!"
"HOW FRIGHTENING!"
"THE CURSE APPEARED AS A RESULT OF HER MOTHER VIOLATING THE WARNING..."
THIS CIRCLET WILL HIDE THE MARK SO NO ONE WILL EVEN BE ABLE TO TELL IT'S THERE.
DIADORA...IF PEOPLE SEE THE MARK ON YOUR FOREHEAD, A DISASTER WILL OCCUR.
...GRAND-MOTHER, WHAT'S A DISASTER?
THIS MARK CLEARLY GIVES AWAY THE FATHER.
PEOPLE WILL KNOW THAT SHE IS CIGYUN'S DAUGHTER.

YOU CANNOT ESCAPE FROM YOUR FATE...
NO...
NOOOO!!
HOPE...
LESS...

ARE YOU OKAY?
YOU WERE HAVING QUITE A NIGHT-MARE.
A DREAM
DIADORA!!
CAN'T YOU HEAR IT? THE ALARM BELLS ARE RINGING.
WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
I HAVE TO CHECK WHETHER SOME-THING HAPPENED

SLAM
DING
DING
DING
DING
Ah...
I WON'T BE LONG.

Z
Z
Z
..
EVEN
THESE
DAYS
..
I AM
HAVING
THOSE
DREAMS
..
A DRAGON
ENVELOPED IN
DARKNESS...

IF YOU DIDN'T CARRY THE BLOOD OF MAIRA, THAT WITHERED OLD BODY. .WOULD HAVE LIKELY BEEN DESTROYED BY NOW.
...IT HAS ALMOST BEEN ONE YEAR SINCE YOU WERE BROUGHT HERE ...
TODAY IT SEEMS YOU DON'T EVEN HAVE THE STRENGTH TO RAISE YOUR HEAD

TCH...!!

OH? SO YOU STILL HAVE ENOUGH POWER TO CONJURE A MAGIC SHIELD, HUH?

BUT, IT LOOKS LIKE YOU ARE AT YOUR LIMIT. I CAN SEE YOUR SUFFERING...

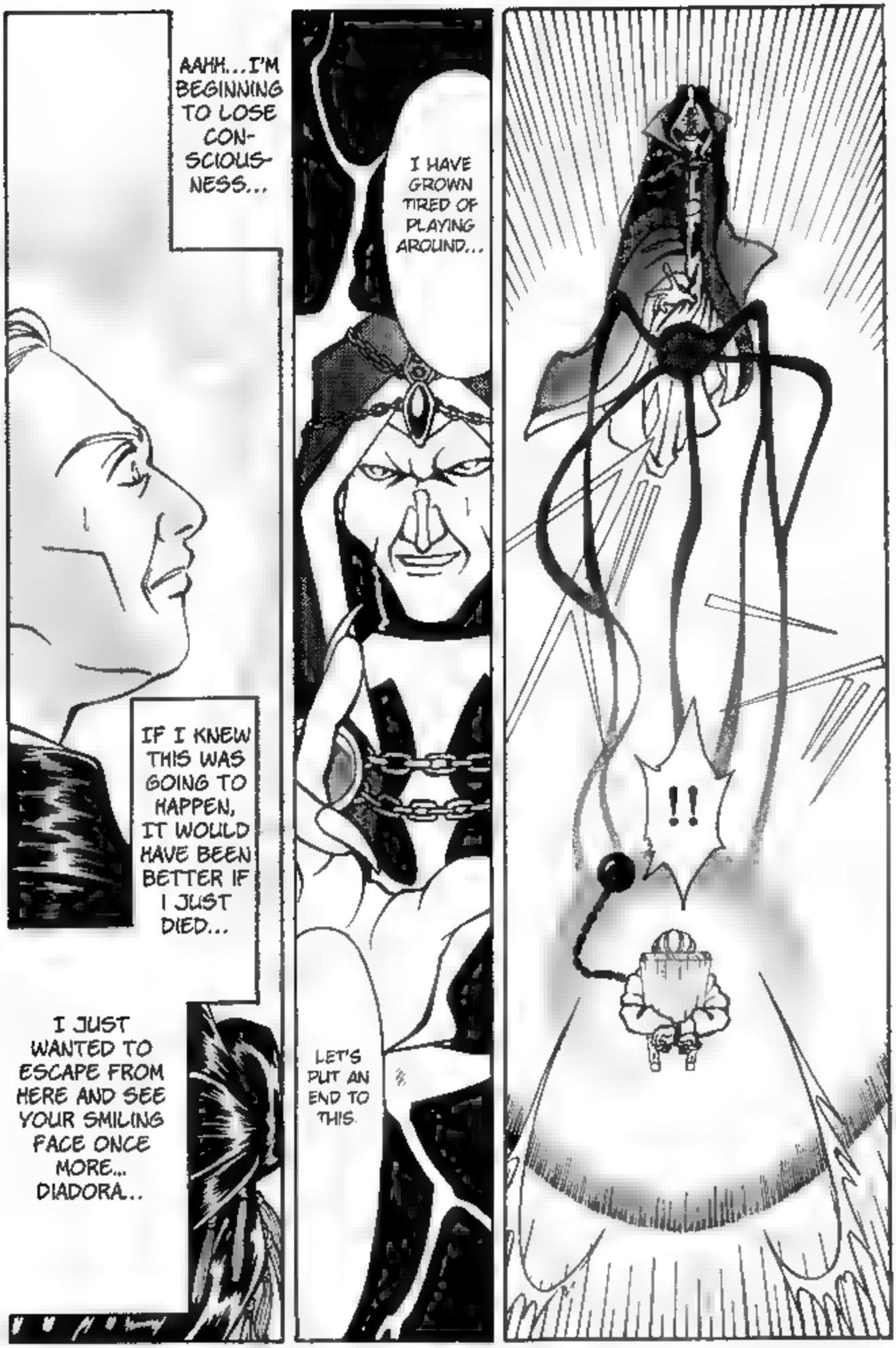
IT'S ABOUT TIME YOU TELL US WHERE CIGYUN'S DAUGHTER IS. DON'T YOU WANT TO FEEL AT EASE?

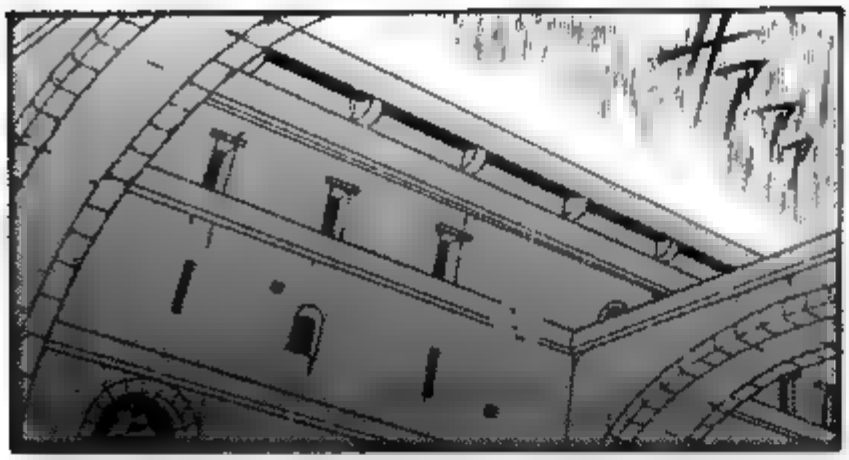
.....

...I SEE.

THEN IT LOOKS LIKE TODAY WE WILL HAVE TO ASK YOUR MEMORIES INSTEAD.

DO YOU TRULY BELIEVE THAT THERE WILL BE A FUTURE BY DOING THE BIDDING OF THE DARK GOD AND ESTABLISHING THE LOPUTO EMPIRE...!?
THERE IS NO USE IN LIVING BY GAINING JOY FROM THE SUFFERING OF OTHERS...!
...WHY... DON'T YOU GET IT...?
ALL THOSE PEOPLE WE HAVE TAKEN JOY UPON...
...I DO.
I LIVE TO PUNISH AND MAKE THEM SUFFER!
IF ONLY THEY HAD BELIEVED IN THE DARK GOD!!
MY PARENTS, MY COMPANIONS, AND ALL THOSE OTHER WORTHLESS WORMS I BURNED TO DEATH!


AAHH...I'M BEGINNING TO LOSE CONSCIOUSNESS...
IF I KNEW THIS WAS GOING TO HAPPEN, IT WOULD HAVE BEEN BETTER IF I JUST DIED...
I JUST WANTED TO ESCAPE FROM HERE AND SEE YOUR SMILING FACE ONCE MORE... DIADORA..
I HAVE GROWN TIRED OF PLAYING AROUND...
LET'S PUT AN END TO THIS.
!!



LORD SIGURD!! THERE ARE SOLDIERS HEADING TOWARD US THEY CARRY FLAGS THAT BEAR THE CREST OF THE AGUSTY ROYAL FAMILY!
THERE IS NO DOUBT ABOUT IT. IT'S THE ARMY THAT KING CHAGALL HAS BEEN RAISING!!
TCH... OUR GREATEST FEARS HAVE COME TRUE...!!

PLEASE FORGIVE ME...

THIS WOULD EXPLAIN WHY HE CAN ACT AS AN AMANUENSIS AND IGNORE MY LETTERS.
IT MUST BE PRIME MINISTER REPTOR'S WORK !!
WITH KING CHAGALL REVOLTING, I CAN NOW USE THE PRETENSE OF PRESERVING PEACE TO STRIKE OUT AT HIM.
WITH THE AGUSTY ROYAL FAMILY WIPED OUT, AGUSTRIA WILL BE GRANDBELL'S FOR THE TAKING...
THIS IS BARHARA'S TRUE OBJECTIVE. BUT I STILL CAN'T BRING MYSELF TO BELIEVE THAT THIS IS HIS MAJESTY'S DOING.
LORD SIGURD, ARE YOU GOING TO FIGHT AGAINST MY BROTHER!?
I DON'T PLAN TO DO THAT. IT'S WHAT WE AGREED UPON.
I HAVE NO INTENTION OF BETRAYING ELTO.
THAT'S EXACTLY RIGHT, SIGURD.
OUR ONLY CHOICE IS TO QUICKLY FORCE KING CHAGALL TO WITHDRAW HIS TROOPS.
ALTHOUGH IT'S RAINING OUTSIDE, WE SHOULD CHARGE THROUGH THE FRONT LINES AND HEAD FOR MADINO.
RIGHT!!
THEN I SHALL TAKE THE ROAD.

I WILL FORCE CHAGALL TO DISARM HIMSELF!
MY BOW FIGHTERS WILL TAKE DOWN THE ENEMY CAMP FIRST
IT WOULD BE WRONG OF ME TO RETURN TO MY COUNTRY WITHOUT DOING THIS.
ELTO'S DECISION TO PUT HIS LIFE ON THE LINE TO PROTECT HIM.
I WON'T LET REPTOR'S MAKESHIFT PLOT DESTROY IT!!
QUICKLY MAKE PREPAR-TIONS TO SORTIE!!
ALL RIGHT!! WE DON'T HAVE MUCH TIME TO FINISH THIS!

STILL ..
EVEN THOUGH YOU SAY THAT, YOUR EXPRESSION TELLS ME OTHERWISE.
EVEN THOUGH YOU ARE TROUBLED, I ALWAYS END UP DEPENDING ON YOU.
I'LL BE ALL RIGHT
I'LL ..MAKE SURE TO WATCH OVER THE CASTLE AND CELICE.
DIADORA, I CAN'T TAKE YOU WITH ME THIS TIME.
YOU SHOULD KNOW WHY
YES...
YEAH, THAT WAY DIADORA WILL FEEL MORE RELAXED.
ME?
I KNOW! SHANAN!
WHILE I'M AWAY, WILL YOU KEEP DIADORA COMPANY?
I CAN ALWAYS COUNT ON YOU, SHANAN.
YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT ANY ENEMIES MAKING THEIR WAY INSIDE THE CASTLE EITHER.
I'LL PROTECT CELICE AND DIADORA.
SURE!! LEAVE IT TO ME.

. . FOR SOME REASON...I CAN'T SHAKE OFF THIS UNEASY FEELING FROM MY CHEST ..
IS IT BECAUSE OF THAT DREAM. ?
DIA-DORA?
.....
THEN, I'LL BE OFF.
I'LL BE BACK SOON.
So adult
WAIT, LORD SIGURD!!
I GET THE FEELING THIS WILL BE THE LAST TIME I'LL SEE HIM
LOOKING AT HIS BACK.

.....!
FOR LUCK ...
"SO THAT WE WILL DEFINITELY SEE EACH OTHER AGAIN."

CELICE, LEND ME YOUR STRENGTH.
SO THAT MOMMY DOESN'T LET THIS ANXIETY OVERCOME HER...

WHAT IS IT, LEX?
HERE, TAKE IT.
AYRA!!
WHAT A BEAUTI-FUL SWORD ...WHAT IS IT CALLED?
IT'S CALLED THE "HERO SWORD".
IT'S MY THANKS FOR THE PROTECTIVE RING. ALTHOUGH I HAD TO PULL A LOT OF STRINGS TO GET THIS...
IF YOU ASK ME, THIS SWORD IS THE PERFECT MATCH FOR YOU.

I'M SO HAPPY... THANK YOU.
WITH THIS SWORD, I FEEL AS IF I CAN DEFEAT ANY ENEMY
...OBVIOUSLY.
THAT'S WHY I GOT IT.
CLAT TER
CLAT TER
CLAT TER

HOW IRRATIO-NAL!!
HE DIDN'T LISTEN TO A SINGLE ISSUE I RAISED TO HIM...!
ALSO... UM, LORD ELTOSHAN
SILVAIL
HIS MAJESTY HAS RAISED AN ARMY!?
HIS MAJESTY HAS RELAYED ORDERS FOR YOU TO ATTACK ..
...WHAT DID YOU SAY?

I 'M AWARE OF THAT!!

YOU KEEP SAYING A LOT OF STRANGE THINGS THESE DAYS...

IS SOMETHING WRONG, FINN?

WE DON'T HAVE TIME TO STAND HERE AND TALK.

THANK YOU, YOU SAVED ME, FINN.

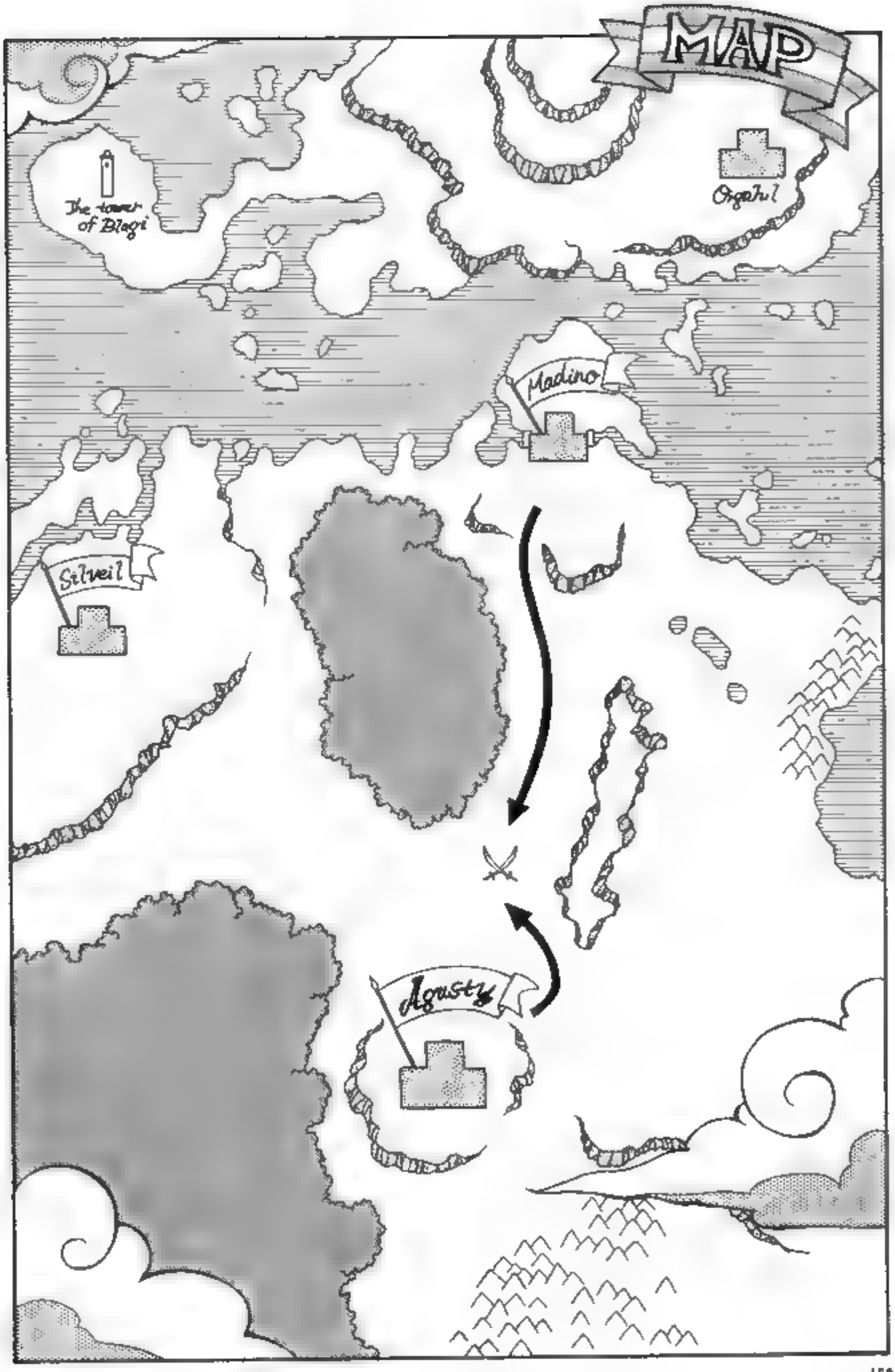
SO I TOO AM CAPABLE OF PROTECTING YOU

OH MY? ARE YOU COMPLI-MENTING ME?

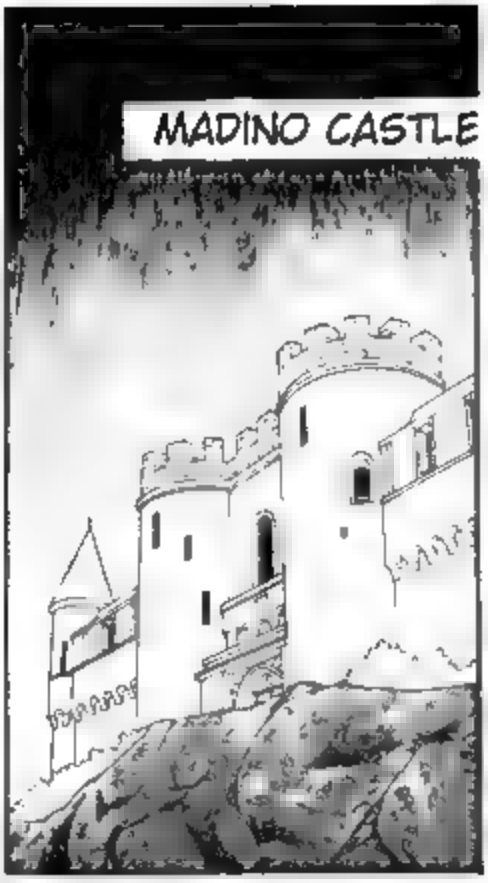
AFTER ALL THAT, YOU STILL END UP TALKING ABOUT HIM.

I CAN'T DIE HERE

I HAVE TO WORK HARD TO KEEP MY BROTHER FROM FIGHTING

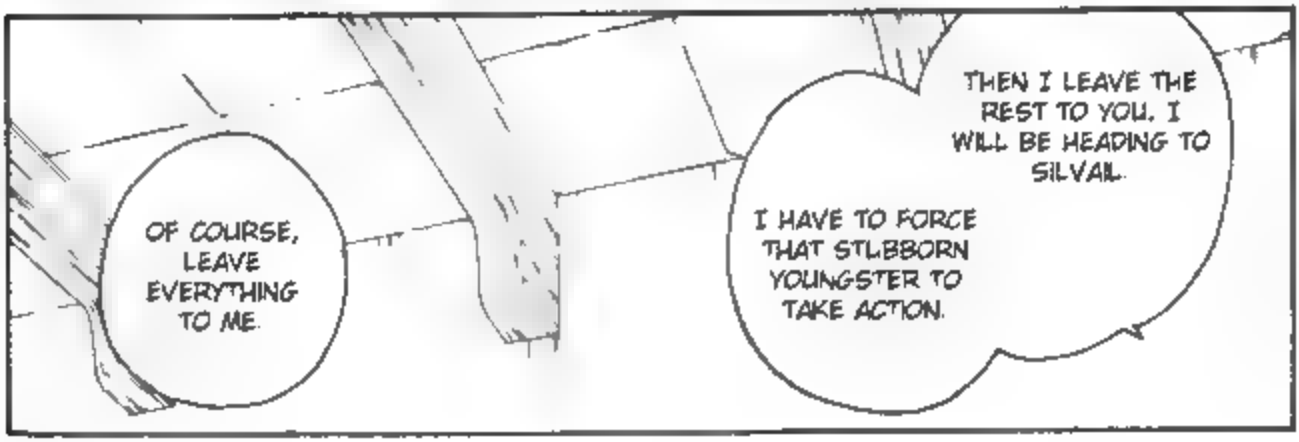

MAP
The tower of Blagi
Orgahil
Madino
Silveil
Agusty

HEHE... JUST AS WE EXPECTED, KING CHAGALL.
OH?
SO THE MAIN UNIT OF SIGURD'S ARMY IS APPROACHING MADINO AS WE SPEAK.


MADINO CASTLE

FU FU
WHILE A MAGE UNIT LAYS HIDDEN WITHIN THE FORESTS NEAR AGUSTY, JUST WAITING TO CONDUCT A SURPRISE ATTACK ON THE CASTLE.
THE ONES THEY ARE FIGHTING RIGHT NOW ARE JUST DECOYS TO LURE THEM HERE...

THEY SHALL WITNESS THE MIGHT OF MY THUNDER SWORD
AND THEY HAVE ME TO WELCOME THEM HERE IN MADINO.


OF COURSE, LEAVE EVERYTHING TO ME.
I HAVE TO FORCE THAT STUBBORN YOUNGSTER TO TAKE ACTION.
THEN I LEAVE THE REST TO YOU. I WILL BE HEADING TO SILVAIL.

OKAY!! SIEGE UNIT, FORWARD!!

DESTROY THE CASTLE GATE!!

HEY, SIGURD, UP THERE...!!

UWAH!!

EH?

OH GREAT RAIN! FALL FORTH!!
SUMMON MORE THUNDER CLOUDS!!
NO MATTER HOW MANY PEOPLE THERE ARE, NO ONE SHALL APPROACH THIS CASTLE!
AS LONG AS I, JACOBAN, HAVE THE "THUNDER SWORD"!!
A FIGHTER WHO USES A MAGIC SWORD ...!!

SPLISH
FATHER, OVER THERE!!
THERE'S A BATTLE WAGING.
THAT MEANS THEY ARE FIGHTING LORD SIGURD'S ARMY.
THAT'S IN THE VICINITY OF MADINO, HUH...SO KING CHAGALL DID RAISE AN ARMY AFTER ALL.
AH!
FATHER!! I'M GOING TO GO ON AHEAD AND TEACH THEM WHAT A REAL THUNDER BOLT LOOKS LIKE.
HEY, WAIT JUST A MINUTE, TAILTO!
I'M OOOOO OFF!!
I CAN SEE SOME AMATEURISH THUNDER SPELLS...

HIS HEIGHT ADVANTAGE MAKES HIM FORMIDABLE. .
I hate those guys the most
HEHE . .
I CAN TRY, BUT I DON'T KNOW HOW EFFECTIVE FIRE MAGIC WILL BE IN THIS RAIN...
AZEL!! CAN YOU TAKE CARE OF HIM?
I SEE...I SHOULDN'T HAVE LEFT LEVIN BACK THERE TO TAKE CARE OF THE STRAGGLERS.
KYAA! THEY'RE ACTER ME!
Levin at a moment
CAN'T YOU COMPREHEND THE KIND OF SITUATION WE'RE IN AT THE MOMENT!?
Can't you see?
EEEKK!! SAVE ME, LEVIN! ♡
I'M SCAAARED! ♡

MOVE IT! MOVE IT!
MAKE WAAAAAY!
OUT OF THE WAAAY!!

WHO IS THE IDIOT WHO DARES APPROACH JACOBAN!!

OH WELL! ♡

YOU ARE... HOUSE FREEGE'S ...

LONG TIME NO SEE, LORD SIGURD!! ♡

TAILTO!?

JUST NOOOW... I FELT LIKE...

I HEARD A FAMILIAR... VOICE...

TOO LATE!!

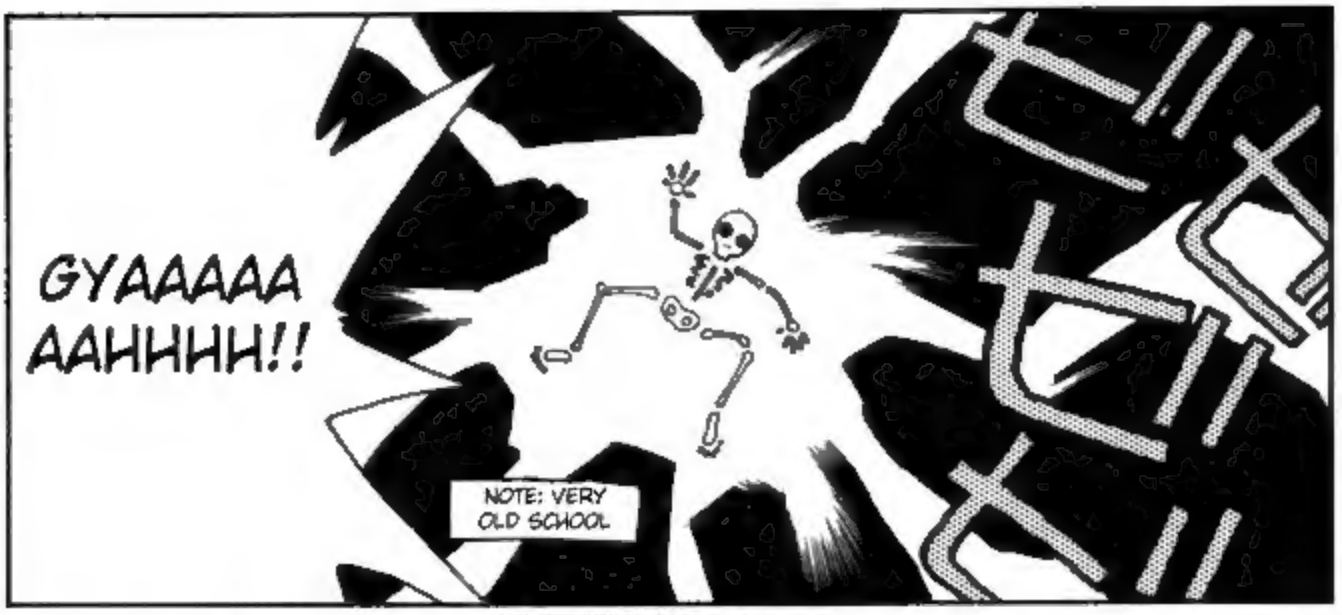
AAHHH!!

THAT SPELL, IT'S—

THE REAL IDIOT IS YOU.

IDIOOOOT!

TERRON!!



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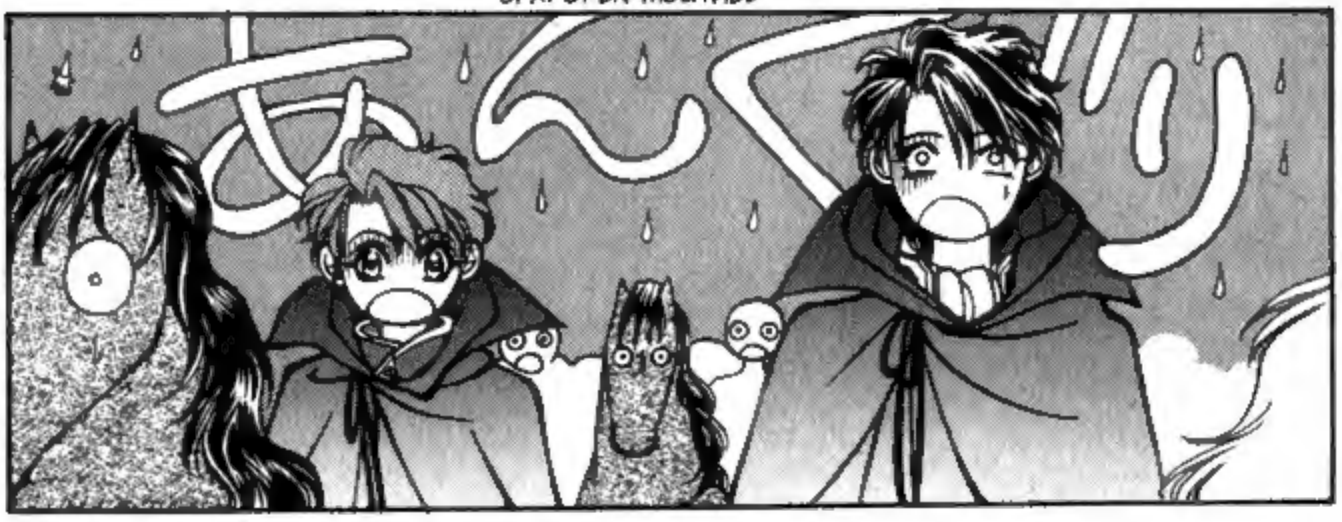

COMMENT

TRANSLATION: TOMOYO
CLEANING: LIGHTSNAKE
TYPESETTING: TOMOYO
SCANNING: AQUANTIS
PROOFREADER: TRIMURTI
MINOR CORRECTIONS/QC: AQUANTIS, VINCENTASM

LOOKING FOR TYPESETTERS/CLEANERS! PLEASE VISIT THE FORUM AT:

HTTP://SERENESFOREST.NET/FORUMS/INDEX.PHP?SHOWTOPIC=15026

INFORMATION